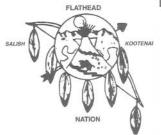
## THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD NATION



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A People of Vision

## A Confederation of the Salish, Upper Pend d'Oreilles and Kootenai Tribes

**Tribal Gaming Commission** 

January 11, 2010

Mr. Brad Mehaffy National Indian Gaming Commission 1441 L Street, NW. Suite 9100 Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Mehaffy;

Re: Comment on NIGC NEPA Procedures Manual

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
James Steele Jr. – Chairman
E.T. "Bud" Moran – Vice Chair
Steve Lozar – Secretary
Jim Malatare – Treasurer
Joe Durglo
Carole Lankford
Michel Kenmille
Reuben A. Mathias
Charles L. Morigeau
Terry L. Pitts

On behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Gaming Commission (Commission) we are writing to comment on NIGC's draft NEPA Procedure Manual. One of our primary concerns is why is NIGC drafting this manual, when it doesn't appear there has been problems with NEPA compliance.

We hope this is not a unilateral attempt by the NIGC to assume authority not provided in federal law and to micromanage tribal government regulation and intrude upon the sovereign rights of tribes to manage their own affairs. By going beyond NIGC's authority and duplicating existing Federal and Tribal laws and regulations that are currently in place and become burdensome for Tribes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We sincerely hope the NIGC will remember that we as the primary regulators of gaming on the reservation and work diligently in complying with all tribal, federal and state laws and regulations in order to ensure that gaming is conducted honestly and free of criminal and corruptive elements.

Sincerely,

Forrest Lester, Chairman

**CSKT Tribal Gaming Commission** 

CC: CSKT Tribal Council

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